

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & VOTING INFORMATION IN CLASSROOM STUDIES

# CALIFORNIA CIVICS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY CALIFORNIA'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND VOTE!!!



A couple of years ago, my government teacher, Mr. Rozicki, asked one of his students why the people in Congress did not look like regular people. The student thought about it for a moment, and then said that maybe it was because white people voted more than minorities did. Mr. Rozicki said that was exactly the right answer. He said if more people would register and vote, Congressmen would listen more to people in their districts.

After talking some more about this, the students asked what they could do to change things. Our teacher said that he had an idea: He would ask one of our city councilmen to come and talk to the class about making a difference in our own town.

Perris City Councilman Sam Torres came to our school and talked about a student-sponsored voter registration drive.

He said he would provide forms to register people to vote if the students would promise to use them. Mr. Rozicki said that he would give project credit if students volunteered and promised to register a certain number of people to vote. About 20 students said they would.

Over the last couple of years, about 120 Perris High School students have worked at registering eligible people to vote and more than 2,000 people have been registered. I think the Class of 2001 can beat that! At least we can try. We can make ourselves heard. About 30 students this year have already volunteered to register new voters, and around 50 of us signed up to be poll workers on Election Day at different places around town. We even get paid for our work at the polls!

Our school motto is "Never Give Up." We have decided we can make our town and country better, and you can, too! Mr. Rozicki says that when he was in school, people always said that if you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem. We are going to be part of the solution!

Juliana Villa  
Student Voter Registration Drive  
Perris High School - Class of 2001

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# Summary of Ballot Measures

## For The November 7, 2000 Presidential General Election

### Proposition 32

Veterans' Bond Act of 2000.

#### SUMMARY

This act provides for a bond issue of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) to provide farm and home aid for California veterans.

#### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

A YES vote on this measure means: The state would be able to issue \$500 million in general obligation bonds to provide loans for the veterans' farm and home purchase (Cal-Vet) program.

A NO vote on this measure means: The state would not be able to issue these bonds for this purpose.

### Proposition 33

Legislature. Participation in Public Employees' Retirement System. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

#### SUMMARY

Allows legislative members to participate in the Public Employees' Retirement System plans in which a majority of state employees may participate.

#### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

A YES vote on this measure means: State legislators could earn retirement benefits under a state retirement system for their years of service in the Legislature.

A NO vote on this measure means: For retirement purposes, state legislators would continue to earn only Social Security benefits for their years of service in the Legislature.

### Proposition 34

Campaign Contributions and Spending. Limits. Disclosure. Legislative Initiative Amendment.

#### SUMMARY

Limits campaign contributions and loans to state candidates and political parties. Provides voluntary spending limits; expands public disclosure requirements and increases penalties.

#### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

A YES vote on this measure means: New contribution and voluntary spending limits will be established for state elective offices. Limits previously adopted by the voters for state and local offices, which have not been implemented because of a pending lawsuit, would be repealed. The new limits are higher than those that would be repealed.

A NO vote on this measure means: Existing contribution and voluntary spending limits for state and local elective offices enacted by a voter approved initiative would not be repealed.

### Proposition 36

Drugs. Probation and Treatment Program. Initiative Statute.

#### SUMMARY

Requires probation and drug treatment, not incarceration, for possession, use, transportation of controlled substances and similar parole violations, except sale or manufacture. Authorizes dismissal of charges after completion of treatment.

#### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

A YES vote on this measure means: Adult offenders convicted of being under the influence of illegal drugs or using, transporting, or possessing illegal drugs for personal use would generally be sentenced to probation and drug treatment.

A NO vote on this measure means: Adult offenders convicted of being under the influence of illegal drugs or using, transporting, or possessing illegal drugs would generally continue to be sentenced to prison, jail, or probation. There would be no requirement that they be sentenced to drug treatment.

### Proposition 37

Fees. Vote Requirements. Taxes. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

#### SUMMARY

Requires two-thirds vote of State Legislature, majority or two-thirds of local electorate to impose future state, local fees on activity to study or mitigate its environmental, societal or economic effects. Defines such fees as taxes except property, development, certain other fees.

#### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

A YES vote on this measure means: Government actions to establish certain regulatory charges would require approval by a greater number of legislators or local voters.

A NO vote on this measure means: Current laws and constitutional requirements regarding regulatory charges would not be changed.

### Proposition 38

School Vouchers. State-Funded Private and Religious Education. Public School Funding. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

#### SUMMARY

Authorizes annual state payments of at least \$4000 per pupil for private/religious schools. Permits replacement of current constitutional public school funding formula.

#### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

A YES vote on this measure means: In addition to funding a public school system, the state would make available to all school-age children (kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) scholarships (vouchers) of at least \$4,000 each year to pay tuition and fees at private schools.

A NO vote on this measure means: The state would not fund scholarships (vouchers) to pay tuition and fees at private schools. The current approach of funding public education for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade through a system of public schools would continue.

# Letters to the Editor

## Proposition 35

Public Works Projects. Use of Private Contractors for Engineering and Architectural Services. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

### SUMMARY

Amends Constitution eliminating existing restrictions on state, local contracting with private entities for engineering, architectural services; contracts awarded by competitive selection; bidding permitted, not required.

### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

A YES vote on this measure means: The state could contract with private individuals or firms for architectural and engineering services in all situations rather than only under certain conditions (such as when the work is of a temporary nature or of such a specialized nature that it cannot be provided by state employees).

A NO vote on this measure means: The state could contract with private individuals or firms for architectural and engineering services only under certain conditions.

## Proposition 39

School Facilities. 55% Local Vote. Bonds, Taxes. Accountability Requirements. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

### SUMMARY

Authorizes bonds for repair, construction or replacement of school facilities, classrooms, if approved by 55% local vote.

### WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

A YES vote on this measure means: Local school bonds could be approved by a 55 percent vote rather than a two-thirds vote of the local electorate.

A NO vote on this measure means: Local school bonds would continue to require approval by a two-thirds vote of the local electorate.

## How do I find my polling place?

Your polling place location is printed on the back of your sample ballot that your local county clerk/registrar mailed to you. If you cannot locate your sample ballot, please call your local county clerk/registrar of voters for your polling place location or visit the Secretary of State's website at [vote2000.ss.ca.gov](http://vote2000.ss.ca.gov).

## When are the polls open?

They are open statewide from 7am until 8pm.

## Are there materials that will help me decide how to vote?

You will receive certain official documents when you register to vote. Approximately one month before a statewide election, you will receive the California Voter Information Guide from the Secretary of State's office. This handbook describes the ballot measures you are asked to approve or reject. Specifically, it contains an official title and summary from the Attorney General, an impartial analysis from the Legislative Analyst, the text of the proposed new law, and the arguments in favor and against the propositions and rebuttals by their supporters and opponents. The arguments, by their nature, attempt to influence your opinions, but the impartial analyses are clear, understandable and non-biased representations of the background of the subject, the proposal's intentions, expected effects if it passes and the fiscal impact of the measure.

You will also receive a "sample ballot" from your local county election official, which contains information on local measures and candidates up for election. There is also a "sample" of the actual ballot you will receive on Election Day at the polling place (or in the mail if you vote absentee). You can mark the sample ballot with your voting choices and take this with you to the polling place to make it easier and faster to vote on Election Day. This sample ballot also has a notice of where your polling place is, whether it is accessible to handicapped voters, and an application for an absentee ballot.

## 2000 Logo Contest



and the winner is!

### Stephanie Borboa

10th Grade  
San Bernardino High School  
San Bernardino, California



Your questions, comments or concerns may be sent to Secretary of State, c/o California CIVICS, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, or by e-mail at [CIVICS@ss.ca.gov](mailto:CIVICS@ss.ca.gov).

# Just for Fun

## The State-of-the-Vote Trivia Challenge

*The following information comes from the Federal Elections Commission, the U.S. Library of Congress, or a verified state source, unless otherwise noted.*

### General Knowledge:

1. How many votes does a candidate need from the Electoral College to win the U.S. Presidency?
2. When is Election Day?
3. Why is Election Day held in November?
4. According to federal law, employers must give full-time employees time to go vote on an election day. How long do they get?
5. What is the catchy name for the 1993 law that made it possible for people to register at the local motor vehicles office?
6. What is the only state that does *not* require people to register to vote?
7. Which state opens its polls the latest on Election Day?
8. Which state traditionally holds the first presidential primary?

### Elections History

9. In what year was the legal voting age lowered to 18 in the U.S.?
10. In the mid-to-late 1800's, many states began to pass laws or constitutional amendments banning candidates from giving out WHAT on Election Day?
11. Which U.S. President had NEVER voted in a presidential election when he took office in 1849?
12. What percentage of U.S. voters cast a ballot in the 1996 presidential election?
13. By what percentage did Russia's last national election exceed U.S. turnout for 1996?
14. Who was the youngest person to *serve* as President of the United States?
15. Who was the oldest person *elected* as President of the United States?
16. Who was the only person to serve as President *and* Vice-President without ever being elected?
17. What was the factor by which the Constitution allowed a state to count its slaves when allocating House seats and electoral votes?
18. Before the use of secret balloting, voters (typically illiterate) used to raise their hands in support of a candidate or proposition. Which country held the first "secret ballot" vote?
19. What language almost became the official language of America, but lost out to English by just one vote?

### Current Election Events

20. In a 1999 survey, which American business mogul did 5% of Americans say they would vote for over Al Gore and George W. Bush?
21. During this Presidential Election year, what has the internet auction site E-bay had to ban from being sold?
22. What major sports-entertainment group started its own "Smackdown your Vote" campaign for the 2000 Presidential election?
23. Which popular band was the first to promote "Rock the Vote" in the early 1990's?
24. Nevada State Law bans anyone classified as a WHAT from voting?

### ANSWER KEY:

1. 270
2. The first Tuesday (after the first Monday) in November
3. For much of our history, America was a predominantly agrarian society filled with farmers. November was the best month for farmers and rural workers to be able to travel to the polls. The fall harvest was over and the majority of the nation still had weather that was mild enough to permit travel over unimproved roads.
4. 2 hours
5. The "Motor Voter Law"
6. North Dakota
7. New Hampshire (11am)
8. New Hampshire
9. 1971
10. Free alcohol
11. Zachary Taylor. Until he was elected President (at age 62), he had served in the military his whole life and never lived anywhere long enough to establish residency.
12. 49%
13. 21% [Source: Harper's Index, November 1999]
14. Teddy Roosevelt, who took over the position after the assassination of William McKinley. JFK was the youngest elected President.
15. Ronald Reagan, who set the record in 1980 at the age of 69. He beat that milestone four years later when he was re-elected at the age of 73.
16. Gerald Ford. He took over as VP when Spiro Agnew left office, and then became President when Richard Nixon resigned.
17. 3/5
18. Australia
19. German
20. Donald Trump [Source: Harper's Index, December 1999]
21. Votes. It's actually a federal offense to sell votes. [Source: Washington Post]
22. WWF (World Wrestling Federation)
23. The Red Hot Chili Peppers [Source: Rock the Vote]
24. Idiot